

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05248 200953Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----097778 200955Z /20
O 200921Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2699

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 5248

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IS, US
SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT PACKAGE

REF: (A) STATE 99977; (B) TEL AVIV 5182

1. AT LAST EVENING'S RECEPTION FOR NEW COS GENERAL EITAN, WE QUERIED DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN AND SEVERAL SENIOR IDF OFFICERS CONCERNING GUR'S COMMENTS TO THE PRESS ON SPLITTING THE F-15/F-16 PACKAGE DEAL (REFTELS). INCLUDED WERE THE AIR FORCE COMMANDER, AF CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE AND A SENIOR MOD CIVILIAN OFFICIAL. THEIR COLLECTIVE RESPONSE IS BEST SUMMED UP BY THE COMMENT MADE TO ARMA BY MG IVRY, THE IAF COMMANDER--"MOTTA (GUR) HAS A GOOD IDEA--NONE OF US LIKE THE IDEA OF A PACKAGE DEAL--BUT I WANT MY AIRPLANES."

2. COMMENT: WE WILL CONTINUE TO HEAR FROM THE RETIRED CHIEF OF STAFF ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS, INCLUDING ISRAELI RELATIONSHIPS WITH USG. INDEED HE IS AGAIN ON THE FRONT PAGES TODAY, THIS TIME ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE OFFICE OF CHIEF OF STAFF. GUR IS A POLITICAL ANIMAL WITH LONG-SUPPRESSED POLITICAL AMBITIONS. THUS WE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE TREATED TO A PUBLIC AIRING OF HIS VIEWS ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS OVER THE COMING MONTHS. THERE

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IS WIDE-SPREAD SPECULATION THAT HE WILL BECOME ACTIVE IN THE LABOR PARTY POLITICAL SCENE, POSSIBLE LATER THIS YEAR.

3. MEANWHILE, OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT IVRY'S COMMENT ACCURATELY REFLECTS WHAT WOULD BECOME IN EXTREMIS THE GOI POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. THE

ISRAELIS WILL DO ALL THEY CAN TO BLOCK THE SAUDI SALE.
BUT IF IT APPEARS THAT TIMELY ACQUISITION OF AIRCRAFT FOR
THE IDF IS JEOPARDIZED BY SUCH TACTICS, THEY WILL OPT FOR
THE AIRCRAFT AND RELUCTANTLY ACCEPT THE PACKAGE DEAL.
LEWIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV05248
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840137-1472
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780434/aaaabchh.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f95379aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 99977, 78 TEL AVIV 5182
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2899723
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIRCRAFT PACKAGE
TAGS: MASS, IS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f95379aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014